

Herseth Sandlin Statement on Replacement of Top Commander in Afghanistan

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Washington, DC- (June 23, 2010)- U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin released the following statement today in response to President Barack Obama's nomination of General David Petraeus as the top U.S. commander for the war in Afghanistan.

"The most important consideration is ensuring that our men and women in uniform have the tools, training, equipment and leadership they need for the mission in Afghanistan. I share the concerns that the unfortunate statements made recently by General McChrystal and his aides could potentially undermine our nation's military strategy and the morale of our troops. General Petraeus is a proven leader and a good choice to take over in Afghanistan.

"I look forward to hearing more from General Petraeus regarding how he will meet the goal of combating al-Qaeda and ensuring this region can never again be used as a base for terrorist action against Americans. It is critical that we be able to measure progress toward our goals, and this measurement must include assessments of the ability and willingness of our allies in the region, including the government of Afghanistan, to work with the United States and help us reach those goals," said Herseth Sandlin.

General Petraeus' nomination is subject to Senate confirmation.

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